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### **Multiple Verdicts Obtained in Sexual Assault Cases This Week in Travis County**

Today, a Travis County jury convicted 33-year-old Christopher Vidrio of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child, Indecency of a Child by Contact, and Indecency of a Child by Exposure. Vidrio received an automatic life sentence following his conviction because of a prior conviction for Indecency with a Child by Contact. The victim testified that back in September of 2013, at the Tallows Inn Motel, the defendant, her father, sexually assaulted her on several different occasions. The victim told jurors that her father had engaged in various sexual acts with her when she was 9 years old. The jury came back with a guilty verdict after approximately two hours of deliberation. The victim made a statement following the sentencing and told her father that it was his job to protect her and not to hurt her. She said he failed in his duties as her father. In her final words on the stand, she said she did not need her father in her life and that she had both of her moms to take care of her.

Also today, in the 403rd Criminal District Court, defendant Anthony Nixon pled guilty to a 2nd Degree charge of Sexual Assault. As part of the negotiated plea, Nixon was sentenced to 6 years' incarceration in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

The crime was committed on April 7, 2018, after the victim spent an evening playing dominoes and drinking with a friend of hers. She later retired to her room and awoke when someone licked her ear, and she found a stranger lying next to her on the bed. Her pants were pulled down to her knees and the defendant was sexually assaulting her. She told him to stop and kept elbowing him in attempts to get him to stop penetrating her, and finally screamed loud enough apparently to frighten the defendant and he left the room. She later identified him when he attempted to reach out to her on social media and he was identified by DNA samples taken from the victim.

Assistant District Attorney, Erik Nielsen, commended the victim for her bravery both during the assault and its aftermath, and for her willingness to come forward and testify. "Without being able to depend on her strength to face her accuser, we could not have successfully negotiated this prison sentence, which is a just result for this offense."

In addition, in the 427<sup>th</sup> District Court, Morris McDonald was sentenced to 12 years in prison for the offense of Sexual Assault. The sentence by Judge Needles was pursuant to a negotiated plea of guilty.

The sexual assault occurred on October 8, 2016, after police responded to an apartment in North Austin and found the victim who told police she had woken up to find an unknown male in her bedroom and, when she yelled for help, the man placed a pillow over her face and held her down. He sexually assaulted her before running and jumping off her second floor balcony. A sexual assault forensic exam was done on the victim at the time and later, in October of 2017, APD was notified of a potential match through the CODIS system (law enforcement offender database), which was consistent with DNA from McDonald.

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